

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Sub F17. (Currently Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, wherein said particulate filter is a wall-flow particulate filter comprising a partition wall having pores, said partition wall which carries carrying a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub> on the side surface and the pore surface thereof, said catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich;

E1 a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO<sub>x</sub> arranged in the exhaust system upstream of said particulate filter, which catalytic apparatus carries a catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich; and

control means for making the air-fuel ratio in said catalytic apparatus and in the particulate filter rich to release NO<sub>x</sub> therefrom and to purify the released NO<sub>x</sub> by reduction, and to oxidize particulates trapped on said particulate filter.

2. (Previously Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, which carries a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub>, said catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich;

a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO<sub>x</sub> arranged in the exhaust system upstream of said particulate filter, which catalytic apparatus carries a catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub>

when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich; and

bypassing means to make possible the exhaust gas bypass said particulate filter downstream said catalytic apparatus.

3. (Previously Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein during the recovery process of the SO<sub>x</sub> pollution of said catalytic apparatus, said bypassing means makes the exhaust gas bypass said particulate filter.

4. (Previously Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein immediately after the finishing of the recovery process of the SO<sub>x</sub> pollution of said catalytic apparatus, said bypassing means does not make the exhaust gas bypass said particulate filter and thus the exhaust gas passes through said particulate filter.

5. (Previously Amended) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, wherein said particulate filter is a wall-flow particulate filter comprising a partition wall having pores, said partition wall carrying which carries an oxidation catalyst on the side surface and the pore surface thereof;

a catalytic apparatus for purifying NO<sub>x</sub> arranged in the exhaust system upstream of said particulate filter, which catalytic apparatus carries a catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-fuel ratio in the surrounding atmosphere thereof is lean and releasing the absorbed NO<sub>x</sub> when said air-fuel ratio is stoichiometric or rich; and

control means for making the air-fuel ratio in said catalytic apparatus and in the particulate filter rich to release NO<sub>x</sub> therefrom and to purify the released NO<sub>x</sub> by reduction, and to oxidize particulates trapped on said particulate filter.

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6. (Original) A device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine according to claim 5, wherein said particulate filter carries an oxygen absorbing agent.

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